

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 /100 W

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R 290855Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 134

INFO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NDJAMENA 2235

E O 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG, NG, CD

SUBJ: PETROLEUM EXPLORATION IN NIGER AND CHAD

REF: NIAMEY 3333

1. CONOCO/CHAD PRESIDENT VOGELI, WHO ATTENDED NIAMEY MEETING NOTED REFTL, CONFIRMED TO EMBOFFS AUG 26 THAT CONOCO HAD OBLIGATION UNDER AGREEMENT WITH GON TO DRILL ONE WELL IN NIGER. DRILLING ORIGINALLY SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEGUN BY FEBRUARY 1975 BUT GON HAS AGREED TO CONOCO'S REQUEST THAT START BE DELAYED UNTIL OCTOBER. CONOCO RIG PRESENTLY NEAR RIG-RIG (SIC) IN KANEM PREFECTURE, WHERE DRILLING NOW DOWN TO 9,400 FEET WITH GAS AND PETROLEUM SHOWS BUT NO INDICATION OF RESERVOIRS. SEISMIC TEAMS SCHEDULED BEGIN WORK SEPTEMBER SOUTHEASTERN CORNER NIGER AND IN CHAD NORTH OF LAKE ALONG NIGER/CHADIAN BORDER.

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2. AFTER COMPLETION WELL IN NIGER, CONOCO CONSIDERING MOVING

RIG BACK TO KANEM FOR ONE MORE HOLE AND THEN, POSSIBLY, DRILL ONE HOLE IN SOUTHERN CHAD, TERMINATING WORK ABOUT FEBRUARY OR MARCH. DRILLING WOULD BE SUSPENDED FOR REMAINDER OF 1976 WHILE FURTHER SURVEYS MADE BY SEISMIC CREWS. DRILLING IN CHAD MIGHT THEN COMMENCE AGAIN IN 1977.

3. VOEGELI MAINTAINS THAT NEW MILITARY REGIME CHAD VERY CO-OPERATIVE AND THAT NEITHER HE NOR CONOCO HAVE ANY PROBLEMS IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH GOC.

4. COMMENT: EMBOFFS HAD IMPRESSION THAT CONOCO NOT VERY ENTHUSIASTIC REGARDING PROSPECTS IN NIGER AND UNLIKELY TO GO MUCH BEYOND CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS SHOULD FIRST HOLE PROVE DRY. WHILE VOEGELI GAVE NO INDICATION WHATSOEVER THAT CONOCO CONSIDERING PULLING OUT OF CHAD AFTER MARCH 1976, PROPOSED NINE MONTH PAUSE FOR FURTHER SEISMIC EXPLORATIONS WOULD OFFER RELATIVELY LOW-KEY OPPORTUNITY FOR GRADUAL DISENGAGEMENT, SHOULD THAT POSSIBILITY BE IN THEIR MINDS.
LITTLE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, EXPLORATORY DRILLING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NDJAME02235
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750299-1011
From: NDJAMENA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975085/aaaaadyu.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NIAMEY 3333
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <29 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PETROLEUM EXPLORATION IN NIGER AND CHAD
TAGS: ENRG, NG, CD, CONOCO, (VOEGELI, DAVID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006